



KENTUCKY DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

NEWS RELEASE

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MEDIA CONTACT: Lisa Y. Gross

Office: (502) 564-2015 **Cellular:** (502) 330-5063 **E-mail:** lisa.gross@education.ky.gov

TRANSITIONAL GRADUATION RATE FORMULA PROVIDES IN-DEPTH DATA

(FRANKFORT, Ky.) – In its transition to a public school graduation rate formula that is mandated by the U.S. Department of Education (USED), Kentucky is reporting Averaged Freshman Graduation Rates (AFGR) for the first time this year.

The state will use the AFGR for the next three years to provide public high school data that will be used for federal No Child Left Behind (NCLB) accountability purposes. For the 2009-10 school year, the statewide AFGR was 76.68 percent. (Graduation rate data is lagged by one year for accountability purposes.)

The AFGR enables disaggregation of data, meaning that Kentucky can report rates for males, females and ethnic groups.

AFGR FOR NCLB – 2008 THROUGH 2010*

	TOTAL	MALE	FEMALE	WHITE	AFRICAN AMERICAN	HISPANIC	ASIAN
2007-08	74.99%	70.51%	79.85%	75.89%	66.80%	70.46%	98.53%
2008-09	75.11%	70.89%	79.64%	76.25%	66.06%	73.78%	91.79%
2009-10	76.68%	72.94%	80.78%	77.94%	70.08%	74.67%	100.00%

***NOTE:** The AFGR data for 2007-08 and 2008-09 are provided for comparison purposes. Comparisons between formerly reported graduation rates, which used the Leaver Formula, and AFGR-derived data should not be made due to the differences in those formulas.

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NCLB requires that states report graduation rates for high schools and include the data in federal accountability determinations. The AFGR formula for NCLB divides the average of prior years' 9th- and 10th-grade membership (enrollment) by the number of four-year diploma and more-than-four-year diploma recipients in the current reporting year. Students with disabilities whose Individual Education Plans enable them to take more than four years to obtain a diploma are included in this calculation.

AFGR Formula

The number of '09-10 graduates with diploma in 4 years + graduates with diploma allowed 4+ years by IEP, x 100

Divided By

Grade 9 Membership '06-07 School Year + Grade 10 Membership '07-08 School Year, divided by 2

Equals

Averaged Freshman Graduation Rate

To make adequate yearly progress (AYP) for NCLB purposes, schools and districts will be required to meet a goal of 82.32 percent or close the gap between the previous year's rate by at least 10 percent. The Kentucky Board of Education (KBE) approved the interim goal of 82.32 percent as a component of 703 KAR 5:060, the regulation describing the interim assessment process. Graduation goals for reporting in 2012 and beyond must be determined by the KBE during the regulation process for the new assessment system.

Kentucky also is reporting an Adjusted AFGR that will not be used for NCLB accountability purposes. This adjusted rate recognizes non-traditional diploma holders, such as students with severe disabilities who receive certificates of completion. The Adjusted AFGR formula is the same as the AFGR for NCLB formula, with the number of students earning certificates of completion added to the number of four-year diploma and more-than-four-year diploma holders.

USED's guidelines for graduation rate formulas do not enable the counting of students who earn non-traditional diplomas; however, state regulation 703 KAR 5:060 requires that the adjusted rate be reported for district and school use. The Adjusted AFGR for 2009-10 is 80.5 percent.

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USED approves graduation rate formulas that states use to generate federal reports, and the agency expects all states to eventually use a cohort formula. Kentucky has worked with USED on a transitional plan for reporting graduation rates with a cohort model, allowing the state time to implement completely the tracking of individual students in the student information system.

The plan includes three steps:

1. Kentucky used the Leaver Graduation Rate for determinations for federal accountability reporting in summer 2010 (using data from school year/class of 2008-09).
2. For this report, Kentucky uses the Averaged Freshman Graduation Rate (AFGR) as a transitional method to begin reporting graduation data disaggregated by group and for making determinations for federal accountability reporting (using data from school year/class of 2009-10).
3. Kentucky will implement the Cohort Model with the nonacademic data release in fall 2013 and federal reporting determinations in summer 2014 (using data from school year/class of 2012-13).

There are several factors that can impact AFGR data. The formula is based on the assumption that membership/enrollment is consistent over time. The formula does not take into account district or community factors that may have caused a loss in population over four years, and those factors can negatively impact the AFGR. Also, a gain in population may impact the AFGR positively.

For this data release, 31 school districts that have district or community factors that have negatively impacted their AFGR.

Complete details on district and school graduation rates can be found in the Open House section of KDE's website, by clicking on the item under "Headlines" on the agency's homepage or by visiting the Nonacademic Data section.

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